

**WATER POLICY IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE
RESOLUTION ADOPTING WATER CONSERVATION POLICY PRIORITIES**

The Water Policy Implementation Task Force adopts the following recommendations to the San Diego City Council, in partial satisfaction of the goals and purposes of City Council Policy No. 400-15:

1. Drought Conditions.

Item C.1 of Policy No. 400-15 states the City Council policy to support water conservation during both wet and dry weather periods.

Due to continuing water shortage conditions in the San Diego region, the Task Force recommends that Municipal Code Section 67.3805 be amended to maintain Drought Response Level 1 – Drought Watch Condition in effect at all times, in order to increase public awareness of the need, among other things, to limit and better regulate landscape irrigation, limit washing of mobile equipment and use recycled water for construction when available.

It is recommended that this amendment be adopted immediately.

2. Water Efficiency Retrofitting.

Item C.4 of Policy No. 400-15 states the City Council policy to support development of grant programs for economic incentives to encourage water conservation, in partnership with water agencies at other levels of government.

Based on research which has shown that substantial reductions in water use can be achieved through retrofitting of older structures, the Task Force recommends that the Public Utilities Department be directed to very significantly increase the scale of (i) its public education program regarding the economic and environmental benefits of such retrofitting, and (ii) its financial assistance programs to provide economic incentives for such retrofitting. The Department also should be directed to seek financial assistance for such programs from the San Diego County Water Authority and other public water agencies.

It is recommended that this direction be given immediately.

3. Reduction of Landscaping Irrigation.

Item C.5 of Policy No 400-15 states the City Council policy to support education and outreach programs supporting water-efficient landscaping. Item C.9 states the City Council policy to support low-water use landscaping and irrigation materials in both public and private development.

In recognition of the very substantial share of water use associated with landscape irrigation, the Task Force recommends that Municipal Code Section 67.3805, et seq., be amended to include a prohibition on landscape irrigation during daylight hours.

In recognition of the large proportion of landscaping which is irrigated either without control systems or with antiquated control systems, the Task Force recommends that the Public Utilities Department be directed to very significantly increase the scale of (i) its public education program regarding the economic and environmental benefits of retrofitting both residential and commercial landscaping with more efficient control systems, and (ii) its financial assistance programs to provide economic incentives for such retrofitting. The Department also should be directed to seek financial assistance for such programs from the San Diego County Water Authority and other public water agencies.

In recognition of the opportunities for significant reduction in water use through modification and updating of Municipal Code Chapter 14, Article 2, Division 4 (Landscape Regulations) and the corresponding provisions of the Land Development Manual, the Task Force recommends that the Development Services Department be directed to undertake a review of those regulations and to prepare revised regulations which require greater use of native and drought-tolerant landscaping, reduce the amount of landscaping associated with development and reduce reliance on landscape irrigation.

It is recommended that these directions be given immediately.

4. Cost-Effective Conservation Alternatives.

Item C.4 of Policy No. 400-15 states the City Council policy to support use of economic incentives to encourage water conservation. Item C.6 states the City Council policy to support market-based programs that encourage conservation.

In recognition of the potentially significant differences in cost-effectiveness of various water conservation policies, the Task Force recommends that the City Council direct the Public Utilities Department to research these differences. This will enable the City to compare on a meaningful basis the relative cost of reducing water demand through alternative methods (such as funding landscape irrigation control systems, funding retrofitting of existing structures for water-efficiency, or funding use of gray water for irrigation), and then to compare those costs with the anticipated cost of imported, recycled or desalinated water.

In recognition of the need for more diverse and effective financing programs for physical improvements intended to achieve water conservation, the Task Force recommends that the City Council direct the Public Utilities Department, in consultation with the City Attorney, to review financing options which may be added to Municipal Code Chapter 6, Article 1, Division 26 (Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation Improvements, and Equipment Financing Program).

It is recommended that this direction be given immediately.